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FROM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

DATE: May 30, 1963

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DEPARTMENT Cooper Flight

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Drafted by

RW Morphy:MDraper:GLane:RLPhillips:eh:May 28, 1963

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

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~~POLITICAL/ECOMMIL~~

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SECRET

The end of 1963, as they have become increasingly aware that their...
The Saudis apparently are determined to make a start on this problem before...
with Saudi officials plans to expand and modernize facilities at Jidda...
including one medical complex. During past few months have been negotiating...
Expansion of Jidda Harbor. For negotiating consulting firms.

Handwritten notes and signature on the right margin.

(CONFIDENTIAL)
exploration this structure would be shared jointly by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.
production has been static. Under agreement reached earlier this year...
5,184 barrels per day. This may give new lease on life to Bahrain, where...
national. Aramco optimistic strike may be big. Production is at the rate of...
off-shore wildcat well in the Abu Saif field between Bahrain and the...
6. Possible Big Oil Strike in Gulf. Following successful test of

(CONFIDENTIAL)
program. (CONFIDENTIAL)
determine whether he would be willing work for Saudi Government in the...
impact on Saudi's occurred when one member team approached informally to...
as rapidly as he indicated in this interview, evidence of team's favorable...
Comment. While still too early ascertain whether Fayal will move ahead

(CONFIDENTIAL)
said he would move ahead by employing engineering consulting firm instead...
falls the view that U.S. probably could not send permanent mission and...
those and was grateful for excellent advice. Fayal appeared accept...
depth with team before acknowledging he agreed with their basic recommendations...
program. Fayal displayed great interest and examined many conclusions...
for U.S. permanent mission take over engineering and supervisory phase of...
available. Team and Ambassador tactfully threw cold water on Fayal's desire...
construction firm who capable doing good job provided adequate supervision...
providing special incentives Saudi engineers; d) make use Saudi-owned...
through treatment technical personnel from U.S. and other channels, as well as...
supervisory functions; e) simultaneously build-up SAG Highway Department...
consulting firms to carry out necessary feasibility, design and construction...
1968 was advised by team; b) construction negotiations with private engineering...
five-year program of building 4,600 kilometers, with first priority given to...
concerning over-all road program; urging a) early start on stretched-out...
and a half hour session with Crown Prince May 22 presented basic conclusions...
5. U.S. Highway Team Concludes Visit. U.S. Highway team in three

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Jidda

the port has grown beyond its capacities. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

I. Douglas Offers Skyhawk Aircraft to Saudis. Five-man Douglas Aircraft team outlined to Saudi Airforce commander and staff, as well as Defense Minister Prince Sultan, the advantages of buying the SKYHAWK close-support aircraft, emphasizing its economy and versatility of roles, ranging from bombing to intercept missions. Sultan and Saudi Airforce personnel appeared highly impressed by proposal and Sultan requested Douglas forward him detailed, written proposal incorporating comprehensive five-year maintenance and support package for twelve aircraft. Team also left with Sultan compact movie projector and screen which Sultan promised employ in showing filmed presentation to Crown Prince Faysal. (SECRET)

Comment: Although Saudis now seem firmly committed to purchase U.S. aircraft, consideration of SKYHAWK as alternative to F5A, hitherto advanced as best choice, probably means further delay decision on actual contract. (SECRET)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

I. Cooper Flight. Additional USIA-IPS press coverage material on Cooper orbital flight, totalling 199 column inches, was used in AI-Bilad, May 24-25. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Local interest in Cooper flight was never strong. As usual, Arab affairs uppermost in the minds of Jiddawis. (UNCLASSIFIED)

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

Michael G. Thacker

Michael G. Thacker
Counselor off Embassy

Distribution by Department on next page.

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SECRET

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Jidda

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